

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 5-7, 12-15, and 20-25 are pending in the present application. Claim 1 is amended and Claims 4, 8, 10, and 11 are canceled without prejudice by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-3 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Shinohe et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,793,065, herein "Shinohe"); Claims 8, 10, and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Onishi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,621,132, herein "Onishi"); Claims 5 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Shinohe in view of Onishi; Claim 4 was indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form; and Claims 12-15 and 20-25 were allowed.

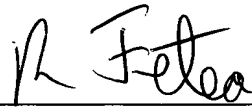
Applicants thank the examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. In view of this indication, independent Claim 1 has been amended to recite the allowable subject matter of Claim 4 and Claim 4 has been cancelled. Further, rejected Claims 8, 10, and 11 have been cancelled.

Because the present amendment reduces the number of issues for appeal and raises no new issues by incorporating the allowed subject matter of Claim 4 into Claim 1, entry of this amendment under 37 CFR § 1.116 is believed to be in order and it is therefore respectfully requested.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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